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How To Find U.S. STATUTES and U.S. CODE CITATIONS

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FOREWORD

This pamphlet on "How To Find U.S. Statutes and U.S. Code Citations" was originated and prepared by Dorothy C. Muse, under the direction of Ernest J. Galdi, both of the Office of the Federal Register, as a guide to aid interested persons in locating the laws in the United States Statutes at Large and the United States Code. A brief description on how to use its "research procedure chart" is set out in the Introduction. Marie F. Faria Yeast, also of the Office of the Federal Register, has updated the pamphlet in this fourth revised edition.

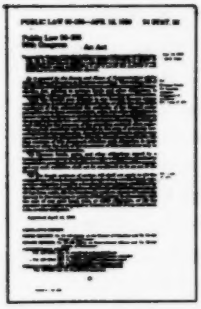
The Office of the Federal Register is publishing this finding aid as a part of its continuing program of service to the public and as an additional aid to law librarians, law students, and others in the legal community.

Ernest J. Galdi

Acting Director of the Federal Register

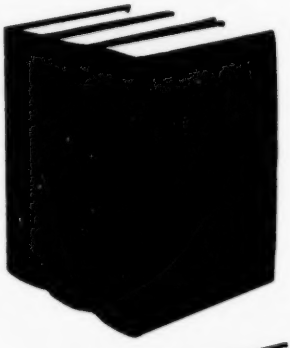
August 22, 1980.

PRINCIPAL FINDING AIDS*



Slip Law

U.S. Statutes at Large



U.S. Code

U.S. Code Supplement

*For description see "REFERENCES" at end of pamphlet.

INTRODUCTION

This "How To Find" guide is designed to enable the user to obtain—quickly and easily—an up-to-date and accurate citation to the United States Statutes at Large and the United States Code.

In using the research procedure chart, beginning on pages 2 and 3, the reader should read the items from left to right across the two pages.

The *first* column contains the typical references which require further citing, which are (1) Revised Statutes section, (2) date of law, (3) name of law, (4) number of law, (5) Statutes citation, and (6) Code citation; the *second, third,* and *fourth* columns point to the official published volumes in which the citations may be found and suggest logical sequences to follow in making the search; *column five* suggests additional finding aids, some of which especially are useful for citing current legislation; and the *last* column shows some examples of the citations resulting from following the steps in the chart.

The careful following of the steps set forth carries the assurance that each search will be complete and that all appropriate points will be covered.

Publications referred to in abbreviated form are identified and described in a convenient list on pages 8 and 9.

RESEARCH PROCEDURE CHART

IF YOU HAVE this reference—	AND YOU USE THESE basic finding aids—	
	U.S. STATUTES AT LARGE (new volume added each year)	U.S. CODE [1] (new edition every 6 years)
1. Revised Statutes Section [e.g., Rev. Stat. 56]	[Revised Statutes, 1873, were published as pt. 1, vol. 18, U.S. Statutes at Large; 2d edition published in 1878.]	Use tables in U.S.C. Popular Names and Tables volume to find U.S.C. section; verify text; then—
2. Date of Laws: [2]		
(a) For any year *up to* and *through* year of last edition of U.S.C. [e.g., June 22, 1942];	Use Stat. volume for that year to check the List of Public Laws; get law number and verify page number from List; then—	Use tables in U.S.C. Popular Names and Tables volume to find U.S.C. section; verify text; then—
(b) For any year *after* year of last edition of U.S.C. and *through* year of latest Supplement;	Use Stat. volume for that year to check the List of Public Laws; get law number and verify page number from List; then—	.....
(c) For current year	.....	.....
3. Name of Law:		
(a) For any year *up to* and *through* year of last edition of U.S.C. [e.g., Government in the Sunshine Act];	.....	Use Acts Cited by Popular Name index (in U.S.C. Popular Names and Tables volume) to obtain Stat. and U.S.C. citations; verify both; then—
(b) For any year *after* year of last edition of U.S.C. and *through* year of latest Supplement [e.g., Airline Deregulation Act of 1978];	.....	.....
(c) For current year	.....	.....

See footnotes at end of table, p. 6.

PLUS latest published— U.S. CODE SUPPLEMENT (*all* changes since last edition)	AND/OR THESE additional finding aids— (See "REFERENCES" at end of pamphlet)	YOU SHOULD GET this citation—
Check latest U.S.C. Supplement for recent changes; verify text.	Check Table 3 in latest U.S.C. Cong. & Adm. News for changes during current period; if Code section is included, verify text in same publication or in slip law.	Rev. Stat. 56. 2 U.S.C. 64.
Check latest U.S.C. Supplement for recent changes; verify text.	Check Table 3 in latest U.S.C. Cong. & Adm. News for changes during current period; if Code section is included, verify text in same publication or in slip law.	56 Stat. 377. 36 U.S.C. 171–178.
Use tables in latest U.S.C. Supplement to find U.S.C. section; verify text.	Check Table 3 in latest U.S.C. Cong. & Adm. News for changes during current period; if Code section is included, verify text in same publication or in slip law.	
	Use slip law or U.S.C. Cong. & Adm. News *text* to get law number, Stat. citation, and to verify subject matter; also use Table 2, U.S.C. Cong. & Adm. News to find U.S.C. classification.	
Check latest U.S.C. Supplement for recent changes; verify text.		90 Stat. 1241. 5 U.S.C. 552b note.
Use Acts Cited by Popular Name index (preceding Tables in U.S.C. Supplement) to obtain Stat. and U.S.C. citation; verify both; then—	Check Table 3 in latest U.S.C. Cong. & Adm. News for changes during current period; verify any changes in same publication or in slip law. Other sources: Index of Popular Name Acts Affected in U.S. Statutes at Large *Laws Affected Tables, 1956–70 and 1971–75;* Table of Federal Statutes by Popular Names in U.S. Supreme Court Reports; Shepard's Acts and Cases by Popular Name; U.S.C.A. Popular Name Table; U.S.C.S. tables volume.	92 Stat. 1705. 49 U.S.C. 1301 note.
	Use House Calendar *index* and *numerical list* to get bill number, then law number (if assigned); or U.S.C. Cong. & Adm. News *index* or Table 10; use slip law or U.S.C. Cong. & Adm. News *text* to get Stat. citation and U.S.C. classification, and to verify date and subject matter; also, with law number, use Table 2, U.S.C. Cong. & Adm. News, to find U.S.C. classification.	

RESEARCH PROCEDURE CHART—Continued

IF YOU HAVE this reference—	AND YOU SEE THESE basic finding aids— U.S. STATUTES AT LARGE (new volume added each year)	U.S. CODE [1] (new edition every 6 years)
4. Number of Law:		
(*a*) For any year *up to* and *through* year of last edition of U.S.C. and the law—		
(1) *does not* have a numerical prefix [e.g., Public Law 702];	[You will need additional information, such as the Congress, the year, or the Stat. volume—year 1956 used here; then] use the Stat. volume to check the List of Public Laws; get and verify page number from List; then—	Use tables in U.S.C. Popular Names and Tables volume to find U.S.C. section; verify text; then—
(2) *does* have a numerical prefix [e.g., Public Law 94–369];	Use Stat. volume for the Congress indicated by the numerical prefix; check the List of Public Laws; get and verify page number from List; then—	Use tables in U.S.C. Popular Names and Tables volume to find U.S.C. section; verify text; then—
(*b*) For any year *after* last edition of U.S.C. and *through* year of latest Supplement [e.g., Public Law 95–521];	Use Stat. volume for the Congress indicated by the numerical prefix; check the List of Public Laws; get and verify page number from List; then—	.....
(*c*) For current year [e.g., Public Law 96–223].	.....	.....
5. Stat. Citation: [3]		
(*a*) For any year *up to* and *through* year of last edition of U.S.C. [e.g., 90 Stat. 1255];	Use Stat. volume to get date and law number; verify subject matter, then—	Use tables in U.S.C. Popular Names and Tables volume to find U.S.C. section; verify text; then—
(*b*) For any year *after* year of last edition of U.S.C. and *through* year of latest Supplement [e.g., 91 Stat. 685];	Use Stat. volume to get date and law number; verify subject matter, then—	.....
(*c*) For current year	.....	.....

See footnotes at end of table, p. 6.

PLUS latest published— U.S. CODE SUPPLEMENT (*all* changes since last edition)	AND/OR THESE additional finding aids— (See "REFERENCES" at end of pamphlet)	YOU SHOULD GET this citation—
Check latest U.S.C. Supplement for recent changes; verify text.	Check Table 3 in latest U.S.C. Cong. & Adm. News for changes during current period; if Code section is included, verify text in same publication or in slip law.	70 Stat. 531. 25 U.S.C. 304a.
Check latest U.S.C. Supplement for recent changes; verify text.	Check Table 3 in latest U.S.C. Cong. & Adm. News for changes during current period; if Code section is included, verify text in same publication or in slip law.	90 Stat. 999. 42 U.S.C. 6701 *et seq.*
Use tables in latest U.S.C. Supplement to find U.S.C. section; verify text.	Check Table 3 in latest U.S.C. Cong. & Adm. News for changes during current period; if Code section is included, verify text in same publication or in slip law.	92 Stat. 1824. 2 U.S.C. 701 *et seq.*
.....	Use slip law or U.S.C. Cong. & Adm. News *text* to get Stat. citation, U.S.C. classification, and to verify date and subject matter; also, with law number, use Table 2, U.S.C. Cong. & Adm. News to find U.S.C. classification.	94 Stat. 229. 26 U.S.C. 1 note.
Check latest U.S.C. Supplement for recent changes; verify text; then—	Check Table 3 in latest U.S.C. Cong. & Adm. News for changes during current period; if Code section is included, verify text in same publication or in slip law.	90 Stat. 1255. 50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*
Use tables in latest U.S.C. Supplement to find U.S.C. section; verify text; then—	Check Table 3 in latest U.S.C. Cong. & Adm. News for changes during current period; if Code section is included, verify text in same publication or in slip law.	91 Stat. 685. 42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*
.....	Use slip law or U.S.C. Cong. & Adm. News *text* to verify subject matter, date, U.S.C. classification and law number. Table 2, U.S.C. Cong. & Adm. News also may be used to find U.S.C. classification.	

RESEARCH PROCEDURE CHART—Continued

IF YOU HAVE this reference—	AND YOU USE THESE basic finding aids—	
	U.S. STATUTES AT LARGE (new volume added each year)	U.S. CODE [1] (new edition every 6 years)
6. U.S.C. Citation:		
(*a*) For any year *up to* and *through* year of last edition of U.S.C. [e.g., 17 U.S.C. 102]:		Check section in U.S.C. to verify subject matter and determine appropriate Stat. citation; verify text against Stat. volume; then—
(*b*) For any year *after* year of last edition of U.S.C. and *through* year of latest Supplement [e.g., 20 U.S.C. 3401]:		
(*c*) For current year		

[1] If U.S. Code is not available, use U.S.C.A. or U.S.C.S. and their supplements.
[2] You will need some knowledge of the subject matter if more than one law was signed on the same day.
[3] You will need some knowledge of the subject matter if more than one law appears on the same page.

PLUS latest published— U.S. CODE SUPPLEMENT (*all* changes since last edition)	AND/OR THESE additional finding aids— (See "REFERENCES" at end of pamphlet)	YOU SHOULD GET this citation—
Check latest U.S.C. Supplement for recent changes; verify text; then—	Check Table 3 in latest U.S.C. Cong. & Adm. News for changes during current period; if Code section is included, verify text in same publication or in slip law.	90 Stat. 2544. 17 U.S.C. 102.
Check section in latest U.S.C. Supplement to verify subject matter and determine appropriate Stat. citation; verify text against Stat. volume; then—	Check Table 3 in latest U.S.C. Cong. & Adm. News for changes during current period; if Code section is included, verify text in same publication or in slip law.	93 Stat. 669. 20 U.S.C. 3401.
	Check Table 3 in latest U.S.C. Cong. & Adm. News; if Code section is included, get page number on which text of law appears and get law number from that page (Code citation should appear as a marginal note), then verify Stat. citation and subject matter from slip law.	

REFERENCES

Title	Description
Government Publications:	
A. Principal Finding Aids	
1. Slip law	A pamphlet print of each public and private law enacted by Congress, issued a few days after a bill becomes law; public (but not private) slip laws carry the Statutes page numbers that will be their permanent citation in a future Statutes volume, marginal notes and citations (including U.S. Code and D.C. Code classifications of current legislation), and a guide to legislative history (which also contains dates of related Presidential statements); text of both public and private laws with annotations are later cumulated and bound as part of the Stat. volume.
2. Stat	United States Statutes at Large; contains all public and private laws and concurrent resolutions enacted during a session of Congress, plus reorganization plans, proposed and ratified amendments to the Constitution, and proclamations by the President, with finding aids including legislative history, subject index, and Laws Affected Tables (see item 5 below); arrangement is chronological by approval date in each category; by law, these volumes are "legal evidence" (1 U.S.C. 112); only the general and permanent laws are codified (arranged by subject in titles) in the U.S.C.
3. U.S.C	United States Code and its annual, cumulative supplements; published every six years; only the general and permanent laws of the United States are codified (arranged by subject in titles) in the U.S. Code; temporary, local, or private laws are not included; the Code establishes "prima facie the laws of the United States" except "whenever titles of such Code shall have been enacted into positive law the text thereof shall be legal evidence" (1 U.S.C. 204(a)); to date, 20 titles and subtitle IV of Title 49 have been enacted into positive law; contains list of Acts by popular name, index and tables.
4. U.S.C. Supplement	Annual, cumulative supplements to the United States Code; contains all changes in or additions to the general and permanent laws and Code ancillaries since the last edition of the Code.
B. Others	
5. Laws Affected Tables	Published in each Statutes volume, from 1956 through 1976, showing the prior laws affected by the public laws in each volume; after 1976 Statutes volume, the Tables were discontinued, and are no longer prepared.
6. Laws Affected Tables for 1956–1970 and 1971–1975.	15-year cumulation and 5-year cumulation, published separately; contains Index of Popular Name Acts Affected; cumulations are no longer prepared and were discontinued after the 1971–1975 cumulation.
7. House Calendar	Calendars of the U.S. House of Representatives and History of Legislation (1 publication)—very useful for following day-to-day progress of legislation through both Houses of Congress; index, usually on Mondays; final edition covers the session (1st) or the Congress (end of 2d session).
8. Index Analysis of the Federal Statutes, 1789–1873; Index to the Federal Statutes, 1874–1931.	Subject index covering all general and permanent laws through 46 Stat. (Mar. 4, 1931); useful for tracing early legislation.

Title	Description
Non-Government Publications:	
9. U.S.C. Cong. and Adm. News.	United States Code Congressional and Administrative News—published at least monthly during each session of Congress monthly when Congress is not in session. Gives slip law information, including legislative history; has subject index, list of popular name acts, tables; material is currently supplemental to and annually codified in U.S.C.A.
10. U.S.C.A. and supplements.	United States Code Annotated—an annotated version of the U.S. Code with periodic supplements and annual, cumulative pocket parts.
11. U.S.C.S. and supplements.	United States Code Service—annotated version of U.S. Code with monthly advance service containing text of slip laws, proclamations, etc., and cumulative tables and index; annual, cumulative pocket parts.
12. Shepard's Acts and Cases by Popular Name.	Bound volume of Federal and State Acts by popular name or short title with U.S. Code and U.S. Statutes at Large citations, cumulative supplements.

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